**UGC-AICTE-DEC Joint Committee**

3587. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUM AN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the formation of UGC-AICTE-DEC Joint Committee for Technical and General Education in Distance Mode on 10th May, 2007;

(b) whether any university/institution can start/run distance education, after getting recognition from the said Joint Committee; and

(c) whether the students getting degree through distance mode from the university, approved by the said Committee, are eligible for Central Government Jobs.

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Universities can offer distance education programmes in accordance with the provisions of their respective Act and also the guidelines and regulations notified by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Distance Education Council and other concerned statutory council, if any.

(c) Degrees awarded for the recognized courses offered through distance mode are to be treated at par with those under the regular courses.

**Controlling authority for distance education system**

3588. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Distance Education Council, IGNOU is the controlling/competent authority for the distance education system in the country;

(b) if so, the details of universities/institutions recognised to run distance education from the Distance Education Council, IGNOU, so far; and

(c) whether Distance Education Council, IGNOU has approved the courses run by the Delhi University under S.O.LV Distance Mode?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the provision under Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Act, Distance Education Council (DEC), IGNOU is responsible for promotion of distance education system in the country and coordination and determination of the standards therein. As per the information provided by IGNOU, the DEC has recognised 13 State Open Universities (SOUs), 123 dual mode universities/deemed universities and 9 institutes as per list placed on the website of the DEC at URL www. dec.ac.in.

(c) The Delhi University has not applied for recognition of DEC.